

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for permitting a user to access a KVM system based upon biometric data associated with the user, the system comprising:
 - a KVM switch;
 - at least one user station communicatively coupled to the KVM switch, wherein the user station includes at least one user input device;
 - at least one host computer communicatively coupled to the KVM switch;
 - an authentication device communicatively coupled to the KVM switch and to an identification input device, wherein the authentication device is capable of providing an associated user access to the KVM switch based at least in part upon information received from the identification input device; and
 - the identification input device is capable of receiving biometric data associated with the user seeking access to the KVM switch from the user station.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the user input device includes at least one of a keyboard or mouse.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the identification input device is integral to the KVM switch.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the authentication device is integral to the KVM switch.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the authentication device is integral to the KVM switch.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the biometric data is obtained from at least one of a fingerprint scan of the user, a retinal scan of the user, a sampling of the user's DNA, a sampling of the user's voice, a sampling of the user's breath, or a sampling of the user's signature.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the authentication device further includes a set of reference data for associating the user with a set of unique biometric data.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the KVM switch provides the user access to a predetermined host computer upon proper authentication.

10. A method for permitting a user to access a KVM switch[✓] based upon biometric data associated with a user, the method comprising:

requesting biometric data associated with a user in response to a user request for access to a KVM switch;

receiving the biometric data associated with the user of the user station;

authenticating the biometric data associated with the user of the user station;

providing the user access to a device associated with the KVM switch.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the user is provided access to the KVM switch from the user station wherein the request for access to the host computer originated.

12. The method of claim 10 further including determining the user's access rights to the device associated with the KVM switch.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the biometric data is obtained from at least one of a fingerprint scan of the user, a retinal scan of the user, a sampling of the user's DNA, a sampling of the user's voice, a sampling of the user's breath, or a sampling of the user's signature.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the biometric data includes a unique set of information pertaining to authorized users of the KVM switch.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein the device associated with the KVM switch is a host computer.

16. A system for permitting a user access to a KVM system[~] based upon biometric data associated with the user, the system comprising:

an input station including at least one user input device;

the input station communicatively coupled to an authentication device;

an identification input device communicatively coupled to the authentication device, wherein the identification input device is capable of generating biometric data associated with a user of the input station; and

the input station communicatively coupled to a host adapter for providing an associated user of the input station access to the at least one host computer based at least in part upon a portion of the biometric data received from the identification input device.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the user input device includes at least one of a keyboard or mouse.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein the identification input device is directly coupled to the input station.

19. The system of claim 16 wherein the identification input device is integral to the input station.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the authentication module is integral to the KVM switch.

21. The system of claim 16 wherein the authentication module is integral to the KVM switch.

22. The system of claim 16 wherein the at least a portion of the biometric data includes a substantially unique set of data from a user including at least one of a fingerprint scan of the user, a retinal scan of the user, a sampling of the user's DNA, a sampling of the user's voice, a sampling of the user's breath, or a sampling of the user's signature.

23. The system of claim 16 wherein the authentication device further includes a set of reference data for associating the user with a set of unique biometric data.

24. The system of claim 16 wherein the host adapter logically couples the associated user to a predetermined host computer.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the host adapter includes a unique logical address.

26. The system of claim 16, wherein the host computers are interfaced together through the host adapter associated with the host computer.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the host adapter associated with one host computer is linked to the host adapter associated with another host computer through a daisy-chain connection.

28. A system for permitting a user access to a KVM system based upon biometric data associated with the user, the system comprising:

at least one input station including at least one user input device;

an authentication device communicatively coupled to the at least one input station;

an identification input device communicatively coupled to the authentication device, wherein the identification input device is capable of generating biometric data associated with a user of the at least one input station; and

the at least one input station communicatively coupled to a host adapter for providing an associated user of the at least one input station access to at least one host computer based at least in part upon a portion of the biometric data received from the identification input device.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein the user input device includes at least one of a keyboard or mouse.

30. The system of claim 28 wherein the user identification device is integral to the input station.

30. The system of claim 29 wherein the authentication module is integral to the input station.

31. The system of claim 28 wherein the authentication module is integral to the input station.

32. The system of claim 28 wherein the biometric data includes a substantially unique set of data from a user including at least one of a fingerprint scan of the user, a retinal scan of the user, a sampling of the user's DNA, a sampling of the user's voice, a sampling of the user's breath, or a sampling of the user's signature.

33. The system of claim 28 wherein a fabric logically couples the at least input station to the host adapter associated with the at least one host computer.

34. The system of claim 28, wherein the host computers are interfaced together through the host adapter associated with the associated host computer.

35. The system of claim 28, wherein the host adapters are linked together though a daisy-chain connection.

36. A system for permitting a user to access a KVM system based upon biometric data associated with the user, the system comprising:

at least one input station including at least one input device;
an authentication device communicatively coupled to the at least one input station;

an identification input device communicatively coupled to the authentication device, wherein the identification input device is capable of generating biometric data associated with a user of the at least one input station; and

the input station communicatively coupled to a host adapter for providing an associated user of the user station access to a device associated with the host adapter based at least in part upon a portion of the biometric data received from the identification input device.

37. The system of claim 36 wherein the user input device includes at least one of a keyboard or mouse.

38. The system of claim 36 wherein the user identification device is integral to the input station.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein the authentication module is integral to the input station.

40. The system of claim 36 wherein the authentication module is integral to the input station.

41. The system of claim 36 wherein the biometric data includes a substantially unique set of data from a user including at least one of a fingerprint scan of the user, a retinal scan of the user, a sampling of the user's DNA, a sampling of the user's voice, a sampling of the user's breath, or a sampling of the user's signature.

42. The system of claim 36 wherein the device is a host computer.

43. The system of claim 36 wherein the host adapter logically couples the input station to a predetermined host computer.

44. The system of claim 43 wherein the host adapter includes a unique logical address.

45. The system of claim 36, wherein the plurality of host computers are interfaced together through the host adapters associated with each of the plurality of host computers.

46. The system of claim 45, wherein the host adapters are linked to the plurality of input stations through a daisy-chain connection.